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Treaty Would Help Tourists in Russia

CPYRGHT

By J. F. TER HORST

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WASHINGTON — The John

son Administration considers a U.S.-Soviet consular treaty a minor but important step toward sweetening the atmosphere between Washington and Moscow.

Under the pact, the United States plans to open a consulate in Leningrad and the Soviets would open one in Chicago — the first time since 1948 for either country to have officials outside Moscow and Washington.

The chief advantage for this country, according to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, is that Americans traveling in Russia — 18,000 last year — would gain legal protection now lacking under Soviet law.

Although a Soviet citizen can be arrested and held incommunicado for nine months, an American would have the right to notify the U.S. embassy if he were arrested. He could not be held incommunicado more than four days.

The United States constantly has had trouble with Russia

on the detention of Americans. As recently as a few weeks ago, two young men were arrested and tried on currency charges. A few months ago, a barefooted Peace Corps youth strayed over the border while picnicking.

Diplomatic immunity would be granted to the consular officials involved.

Actually as Undersecretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach indicated in the Senate recently, the Central Intelligence Agency is just as interested in the treaty as the Soviets, mainly because American agents now have a tougher time getting information in Russia than their Russian counterparts do in the United States.

"It is far more difficult to gather information within a closed society that does not have hundreds of thousands of newspapers, with their hundreds of thousands of sources of information, the technical magazines — all of which occurs in a free society," Katzenbach said in comparing the intelligence gathering problems within the two countries.

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